

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 90
By Montgomery

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ray Anthony Proffitt on the
occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Ray Anthony "Tony" Proffitt is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for 35 years with the State of Tennessee, including 28 years of exemplary service as a Wildlife Officer for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Newport Grammar School and Cocke County High School, Mr. Proffitt attended Carson-Newman College for three years before commencing employment with the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, though initially employed as a part of a road surveying crew, Tony Proffitt quickly attained the position of his dreams; in 1973, he was became a Wildlife Officer with the Tennessee Fish and Game Commission and was assigned to Benton County; and

WHEREAS, following two and a half years of meritorious service in Benton County, Mr. Proffitt was transferred to Sevier County, where he met his wife, made a home and served for nearly thirty years; and

WHEREAS, daily attending to responsibilities in a variety of areas, such as wildlife law, litter and boating enforcement, public relations and education, Tony Proffitt maintains that he “can’t think of anything [he] did not like about the job”; and

WHEREAS, due in large part to Mr. Proffitt’s efforts, children in Sevier County are exposed to elements of hunter safety education in their schools, and, over the years, Tony Proffitt has certified 20,000 students in his hunter education classes; and

WHEREAS, indicative of his dedication to excellence in wildlife preservation, Mr. Proffitt has participated in numerous valuable training events, including Coast Guard Training School, National Boating Safety School, the National Wildlife School Short Course for Raptors, Police Firearms Instructors Certification, Basic River Rescue School, Oucherlony Analysis School, Florida Boating Accident Investigation School, Animal Damage Control School, the National Animal Control Association Chemical Immobilization Workshop, an Advanced Boating Accident Investigation Course and a Black Bear Immobilization Training Course; and

WHEREAS, Tony Proffitt has been decorated with several prestigious awards for his extraordinary service, being named the Region 4 Wildlife Officer of the Year, the Shikar-Safari International Club Wildlife Officer of the Year and the Tennessee Hunter Education Instructor of the Year (for four years) and receiving a special award for Outstanding Service and Dedication to the Hunter Education Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Proffitt is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous civic organizations, including the Gatlinburg Sportsman Club, the Sevier County Rescue Squad and Leadership Sevier (Class of 2001) and serving as a County Commissioner for Sevier County; he is also a loyal and active member of Jones Chapel Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Tony Proffitt is most grateful to share both love and companionship with his wife, Kathy Chaney Proffitt, their sons, Matthew and Jake, and his three brothers, Mike, Pat and Chris, and his sister, Eutha Hageman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Proffitt exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Tony Proffitt has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Tony Proffitt for his exceptional service to the State of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.